

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A latch for use in a vehicle having a rear seat with a fold-
2 down seatback, the latch comprising:
3 a latch assembly configured to releaseably engage a striker
4 member coupled to the vehicle, the latch assembly comprising:
5 a catch plate configured with two prongs and pivotally
6 mounted on a support plate; and
7 a hook plate with two camming surfaces configured to
8 engage at least one of the prongs with the hook plate pivotally mounted
9 on the support plate, wherein movement of the engaged prong is
10 restricted in any direction when the hook plate is in a locked position.
- 1 2. The latch of claim 1, including an intermediate plate pivotally
2 mounted on the support plate and configured to selectively engage the
3 catch plate and the hook plate.
- 1 3. The latch of claim 1, wherein the latch assembly is coupled
2 to the seatback.
- 1 4. The latch of claim 2, including an overmold mounted on each
2 prong and aligned to contact the striker member during operation of the
3 seatback latch to provide a positive engagement between the catch plate
4 and the striker to minimize free play and buzzes, squeaks and rattles.
- 1 5. The latch of claim 4, wherein the overmold is composed of
2 plastic.
- 1 6. The latch of claim 1, including a first biasing member
2 coupled to the catch plate and support member.

1 7. The latch of claim 1, including a second biasing member
2 coupled to the hook plate and support member.

1 8. A seat for a vehicle, the seat comprising:
2 a seat base coupled to the vehicle;
3 a seatback coupled to the seat base and configured to rotate
4 from a seating position to a stored position; and
5 a latch coupled to the seatback, the latch comprising:
6 a striker member coupled to the vehicle; and
7 a latch assembly configured to releaseably engage the striker
8 member, the latch assembly comprising:
9 a catch plate configured with two prongs and pivotally
10 mounted on a support plate; and
11 a hook plate with two camming surfaces configured to
12 engage at least one of the prongs with the hook plate pivotally mounted
13 on the support plate, wherein movement of the engaged prong is
14 restricted in any direction when the hook plate is in a locked position.

1 9. The seat of claim 8, including an intermediate plate pivotally
2 mounted on the support plate and configured to selectively engage the
3 catch plate and hook plate.

1 10. The seat of claim 8, wherein the latch assembly is coupled to
2 the seatback.

1 11. The seat of claim 9, including an overmold mounted on each
2 prong and configured to contact the striker member during operation of
3 the latch to prevent buzzes, squeaks and rattles.

1 12. The seat latch of claim 11, wherein the overmold is
2 composed of plastic.

1 13. The seat latch of claim 8, including a first biasing member
2 coupled to the catch plate and support member.

1 14. The seat latch of claim 8, including a second biasing member
2 coupled to the hook plate and support member.